

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 SCCT-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05 NEA-06

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P 180820Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8619

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MY RP

SUBJ: PRESS COVERAGE OF SOUTHERN PHILIPPINE DISSIDENCE

1. DEC. 18 KL "NEW STRAITS TIMES" ON EDITORIAL
PAGE FEATURES UPI ARTICLE BY ROWLINSON CARTER EN-
TITLED "TWELVE DAYS IN REBEL COUNTRY", TRUNCATED VERSION OF
WHICH AL E APPEARED IN MALAY-LANGUAGE DAILY "BERITA HARIAN",
PART OF "STRAITS TIMES" GROUP. UPI/CARTER ARTICLE RECOUNTED
"INTERVIEWS" WITH REBELS AND MADE FOLLOWING POINTS: PEACE TALKS
WITH MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (MNLF) NOT LIKELY TO BE
SUCCESSFUL; PRES. MARCOS IS TRYING TO "BUY LOYALTY" OF MUSLIMS
BY "ATTRACTIONS AND APPEASEMENT"; AND MNLF INSPIRED AND SUPPORTED
BY LIBYA'S QADHAFI. CARTER SAID GUERILLAS TOLD HIM LIBYA IS
"SOLE SUPPLIER" OF ARMS AND, DURING AIR RAID BY AFP JETS, ONE
REBEL ALLEGEDLY REMARKED: "WE MUST ASK UNCLE KHADAFFY
FOR SOME MISSILES."

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2. ASSOCIATED PRESS (AP) ARTICLE CARRIED BY "NEW STRAITS TIMES" ON PAGE TWO HIGHLIGHTS CRITICISM OF DRAFT MUSLIM LAW CODE BY PHIL SUPREME COURT JUSTICE FRED RUIZ CASTRO. CASTRO AND OTHER CRITICS REPORTEDLY MAINTAINED THAT DRAFT CODE, SUPPORTED BY MUSLIM LAWYERS, WOULD PROMOTE MUSLIM SECESSION RATHER THAN INTEGRATION. IMPLICATION IN AP REPORT WAS THAT CHRISTIANS ARE ATTEMPTING TO BLOCK APPLICATION OF MUSLIM LAW IN FAMILY AND PROPERTY MATTERS, INTER ALIA PERMITTING POLYGAMY AND DIVORCE WHICH ARE ANATHEMA TO CATHOLIC CHURCH.

3. COMMENT: UPI/CARTER FEATURE STORY IS MOST PROMINENT PLAY GIVEN TO FILIPINO MUSLIM DISSIDENCE SINCE MALAY-LANGUAGE "UTUSAN MALAYSIA" RAN SERIES BY AUSTRALIAN JOURNALIST ROBIN OSBORNE AT TIME OF ISLAMIC FORUMS' CONFERENCE IN JUNE. IF ORIGINAL STORY CONTAINED REFERENCES TO MALAYSIAN ASSISTANCE THEY WERE EDITED OUT HERE.
UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

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